



PETA
(SLAP)

WHAT...

WHAT...?



IT WAS
SO HARD
TO MOVE
BECAUSE
I WAS
USING
THESE
SHORT
LEGS...



THAT
VOICE
I JUST
FOUND
CAME
FROM
THIS
THROAT...



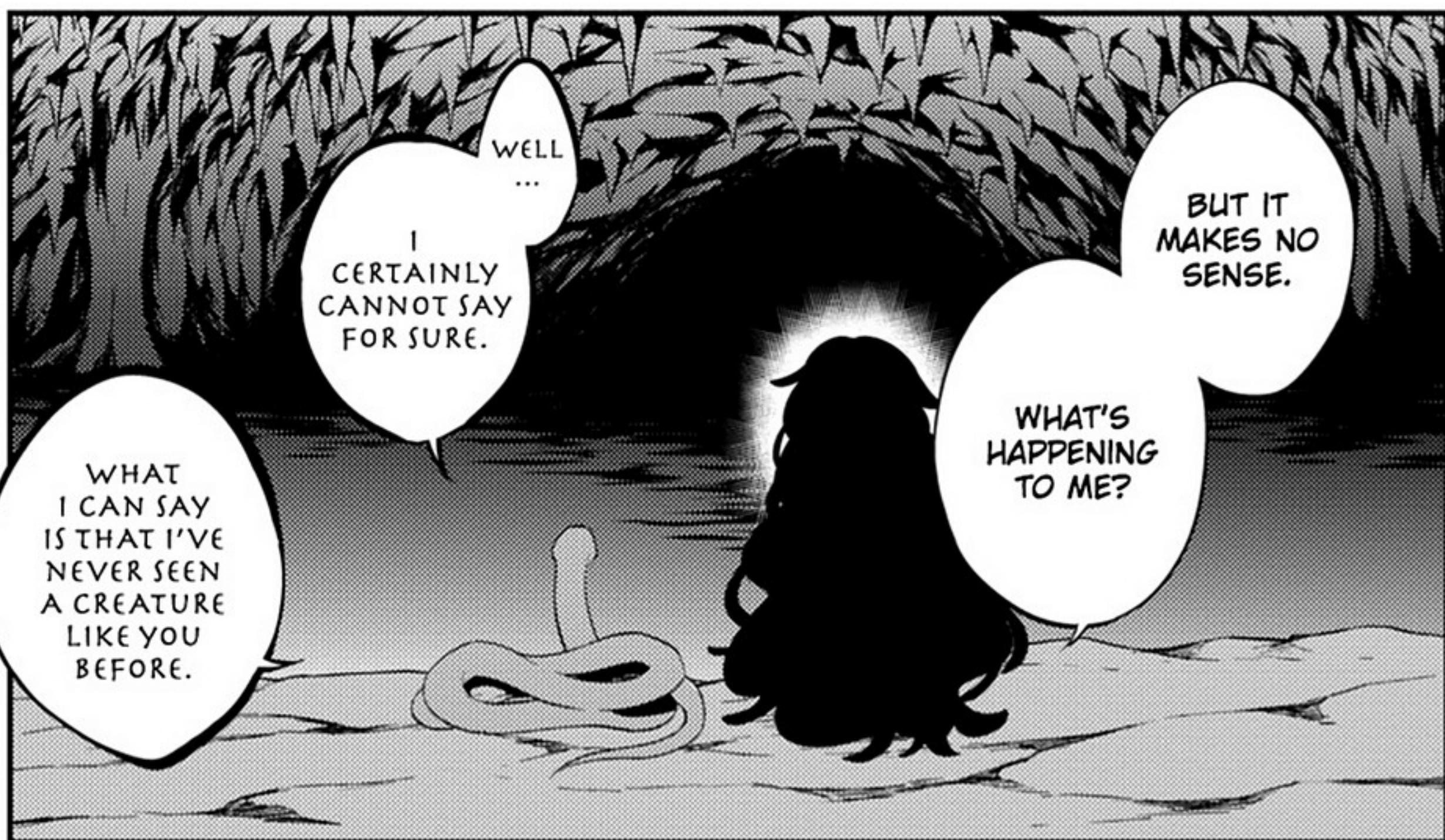
SU
(LOOM)

THIS IS
HOW YOU'VE
LOOKED
TO ME ALL
ALONG.

IT DOESN'T
SEEM YOU
WERE AWARE
OF IT THOUGH,
WERE YOU?



...I ONLY
JUST
NOTICED.



WELL
...

I
CERTAINLY
CANNOT SAY
FOR SURE.

BUT IT
MAKES NO
SENSE.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?

WHAT
I CAN SAY
IS THAT I'VE
NEVER SEEN
A CREATURE
LIKE YOU
BEFORE.



...BUT
WHAT?



BUT...

CONSIDERING
ALL THE THINGS
IT'S SAID,
THE SNAKE IS
PROVING TO BE
SURPRISINGLY
UNHELPFUL...



YOU
CERTAINLY
ARE
QUITE AN
UNUSUAL
CREATURE.

...AND
YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND
THE SPEECH
OF OTHER
CREATURES.

YOU'VE
CHANGED
YOUR SHAPE
AND FORM
MANY
TIMES...

YOU
APPEARED
OUT OF THIN
AIR IN THIS
EMPTY
CAVERN...

...IT SEEMS
AS IF YOU
ARE TRYING
TO BECOME...
"SOMETHING."

AND
FROM
WHAT
I CAN
TELL...



STOP
GIVING
ME THAT
NONSENSE.
I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN
MYSELF.

THAT'S
WHAT I'M
TRYING TO
LEARN.

NO, NO,
I UNDER-
STAND. IT
WAS JUST
SPECULA-
TION.

DON'T
MIND
ME.



I'M
TRYING TO
BECOME...
SOMETHING?



YOU'RE
LEAV-
ING?

WELL,
THANKS
FOR
YOUR
HELP.

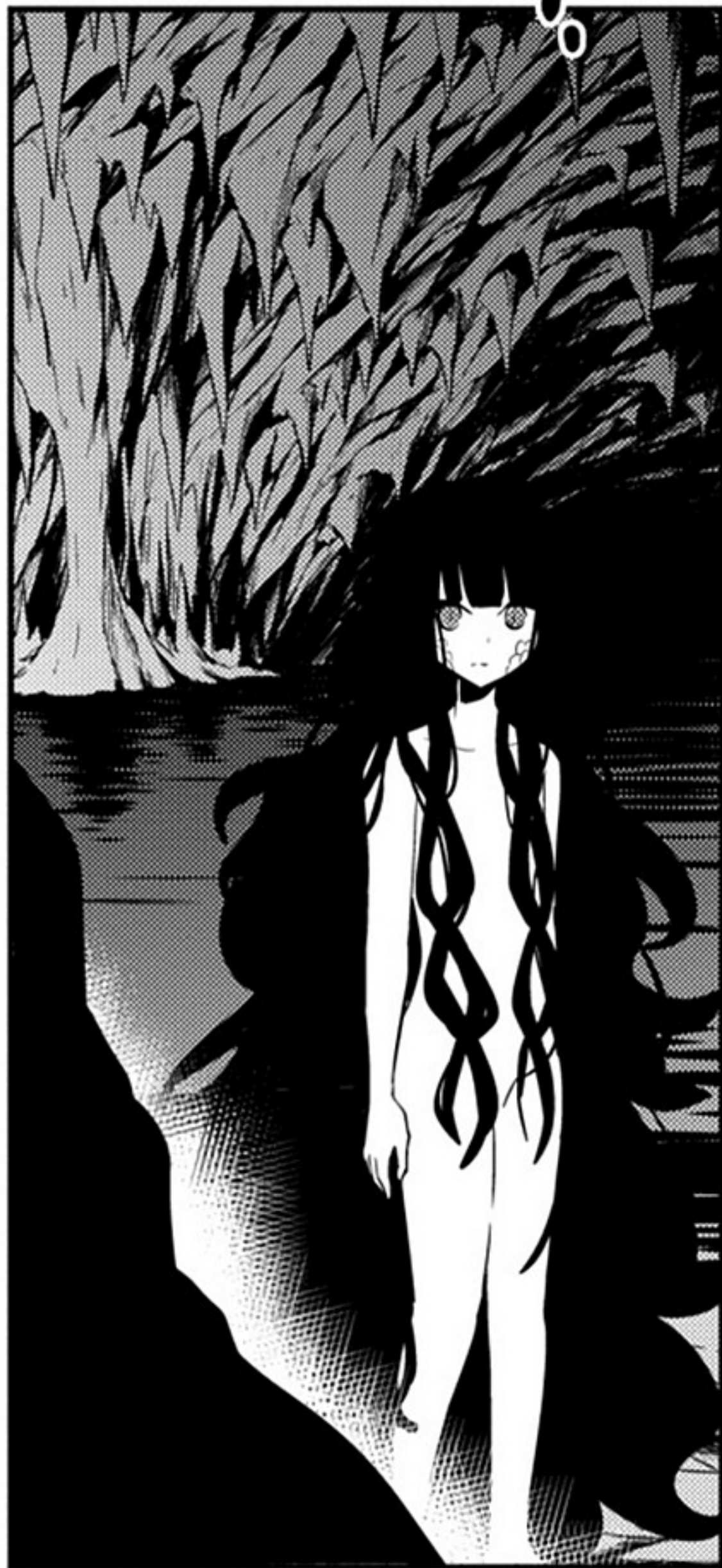
I HAD
BEST
RETURN
TO MY
DWELLING
NOW.

IT'S
BEEN VERY
FASCINATING,
ENCOUNTER-
ING A
CREATURE
LIKE YOUR-
SELF.



NO...

SHURU
(SLITHER)





IF
ANY-
THING
IS
CLEAR
NOW...

...IT'S THAT I
WILL NEVER
DISCOVER
WHAT I NEED
TO KNOW IN
HERE.





...I DOUBT I'LL
EVER SATISFY
THE CURIOSITY
WELLING
WITHIN ME.

UNLESS I
KNOW FOR
MYSELF THE
IMPLICATIONS
OF THE WORD
"MONSTER"...

I IMAGINE I'LL
BE MEETING
THE HUMANS
BEFORE TOO
LONG.





HOPEFULLY
IT WON'T
BE WINTER,
AT LEAST.

IT'S TOO
QUIET
THEN, AND
THERE'S
ALMOST
NOTHING TO
BREAK THE
MONOTONY.

WHAT IS
HAPPENING
IN THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD?

I'D PREFER
IT TO BE
SUMMER,
RIPE WITH
BOUNDLESS
CHANGE...

WHAT
WILL IT
BE, I
WONDER?



I
TOLD
YOU...

...IF YOU
WON'T LET
ME IN, THEN
BRING THAT
MAN OUT
HERE AT
ONCE!



THEN
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
ME TO
DO?

YOU KNOW
I COULDN'T
JUST SAY, "OH,
CERTAINLY,
OF COURSE," TO
EVERYONE
WHO ASKED
THAT.

NO,
BUT...
LISTEN,
MISS...



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE MOST HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE THANKS TO THAT MAN.



HE SAID HE KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME, SO I DID WHATEVER HE SAID WITHOUT COMPLAINT.



IN RETURN, I'VE BEEN HANDED OVER TO THESE CRAZY PEOPLE...



...I WAS TREATED LIKE SOME KIND OF ANIMAL, AND I EVEN TOOK A LEAD BALL TO THE STOMACH.



AH HA HA!



YOU GOTTA STOP WITH THESE STORIES!



GRR!



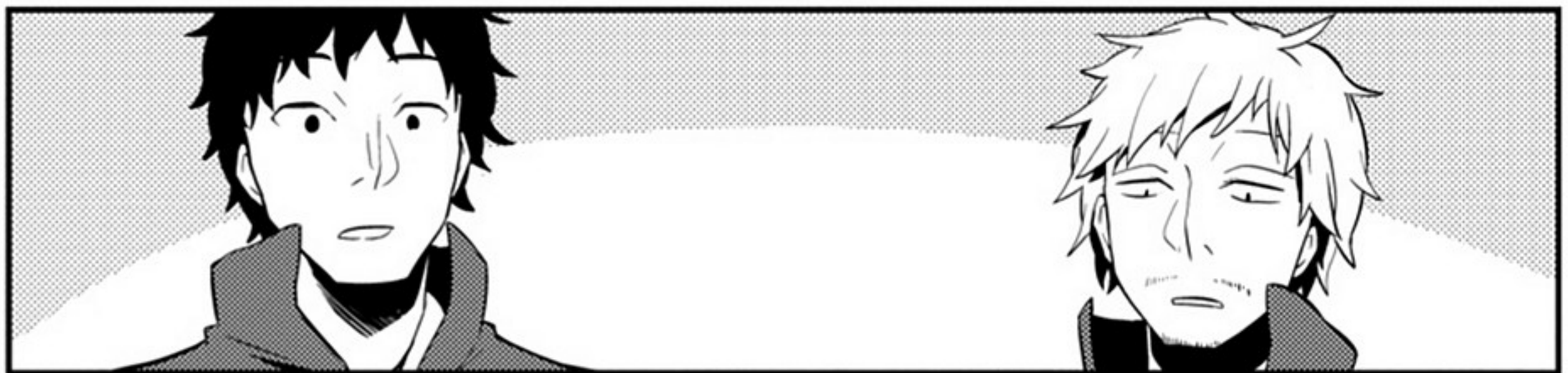
WHA ...!?

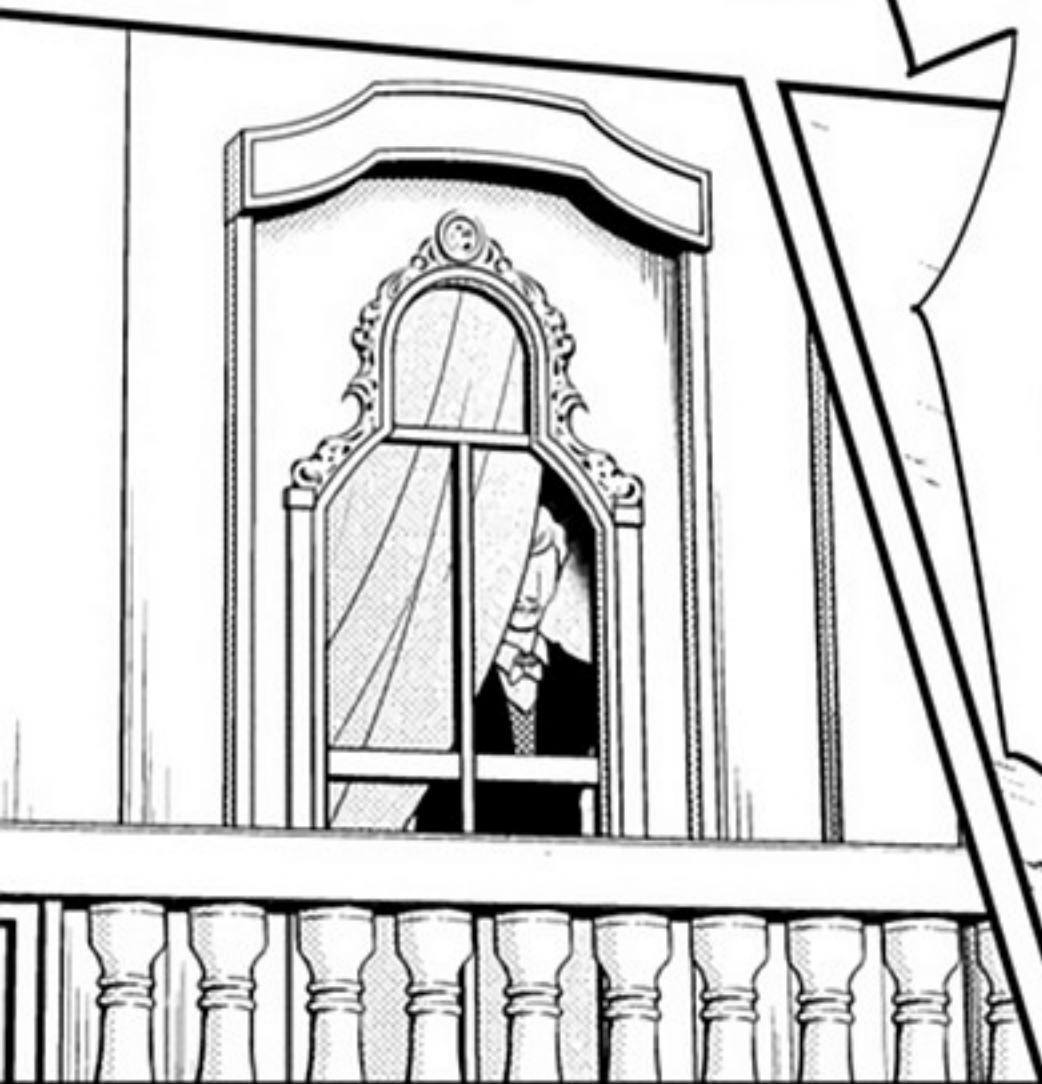


I SPENT WEEKS RETRACING MY WAGON JOURNEY ON FOOT, AND THIS IS HOW THEY TREAT ME?



WHAT IS WITH THEIR ATTITUDE ...?





I'M NOT
HERE TO
TALK TO
YOU—





IT'S
HIM....!



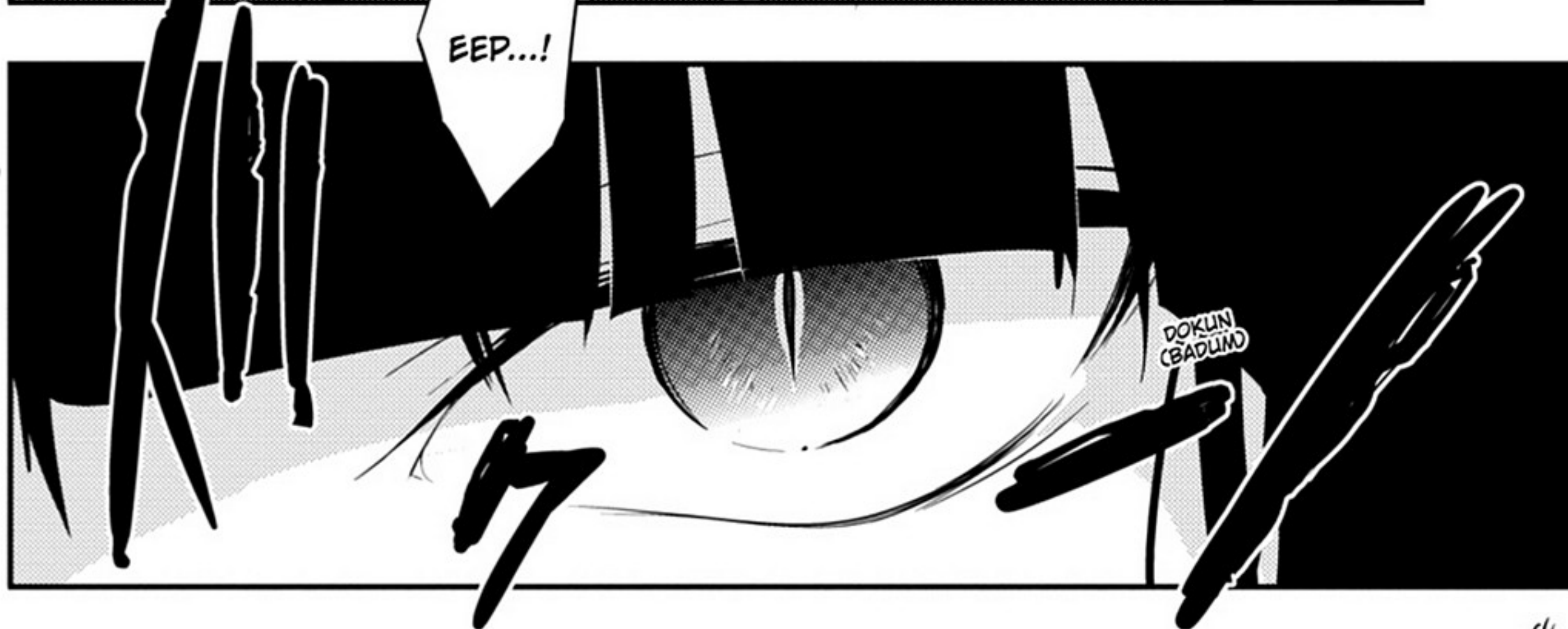
STOP!
STOP
THIS
NOW!

THERE'S
THE MAN
WHO
TRICKED
ME....!

WE
ARE DONE
PLAYING
AROUND
WITH YOU,
LADY!

GASHI
(CLASP)







ROTTEN
TO THE
CORE,
EVERY
ONE OF
THEM.



CHAKI
(KSHING)

ANSWER ME
NOW, OR I
WILL TREAT
YOU AS A
THREAT AND
STRIKE YOU
DOWN!



YOU!

WHAT
DID YOU
JUST DO
TO HIM?



PACHI
(BLINK)

MUST'VE
BEEN AT ONE
CHURCH OR
ANOTHER
WHEN I WAS
FORCED TO
ACT THE PART
OF "GOD"
FOR SOME
PEOPLE.

WHEN
WAS THE
LAST TIME
I USED
THIS?



EVERY
SINGLE
TIME, ALL I
GAIN FROM
HUMANS ARE
CONTEMPT
AND DISAP-
POINTMENT.

HEY! YOU
LISTENING
TO ME!?



AND
YET...

...THIS TIME,
LIKE EVERY
OTHER TIME,
MY HEART
WAS FILLED
WITH AN
ABSURD
SENSE OF
HOPE.



SUI
CFSHD

IT IS
TIME...

...TO
"DRAW."

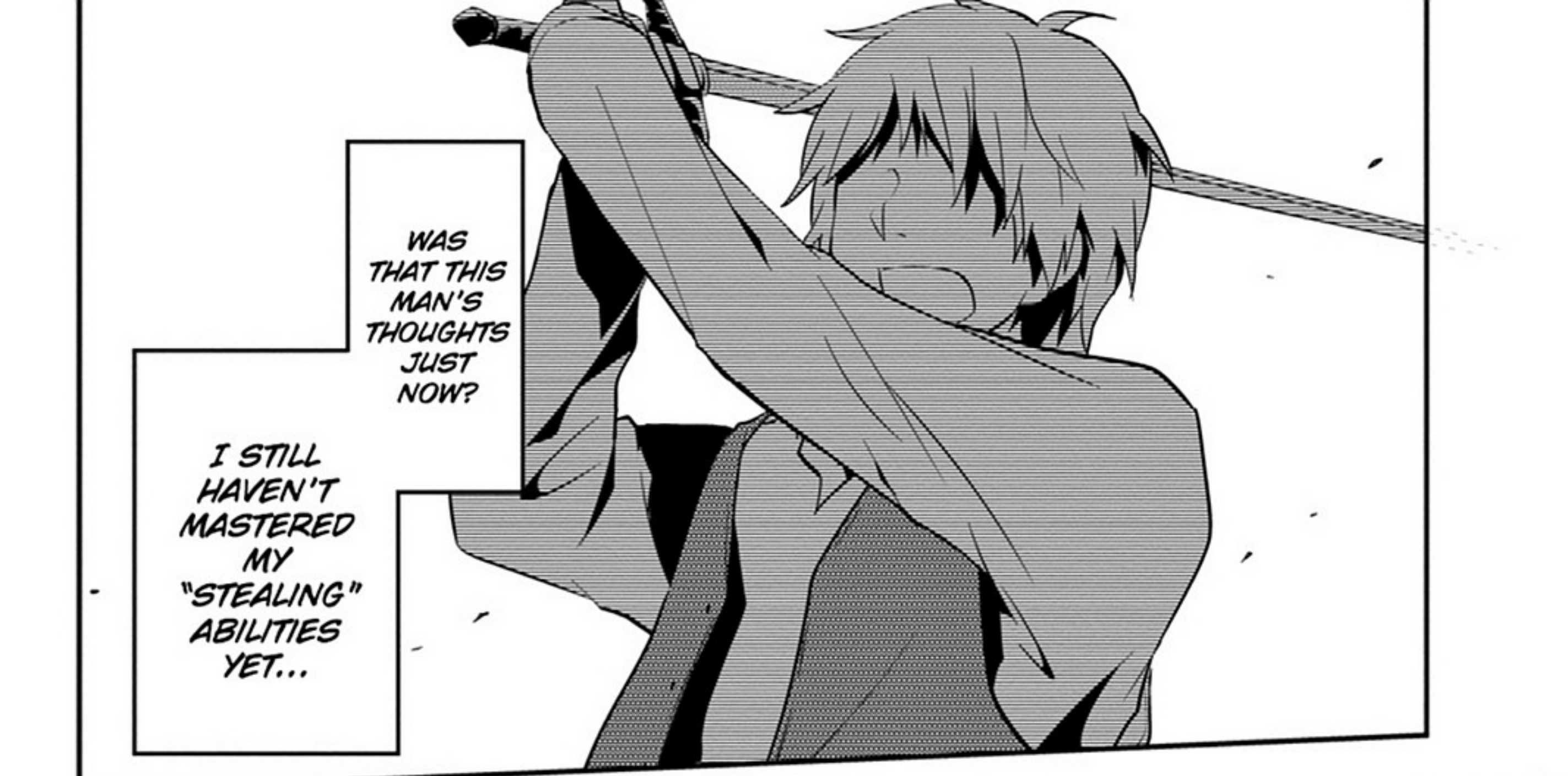


DOKUN
(BADUM)



!?





WAS
THAT THIS
MAN'S
THOUGHTS
JUST
NOW?

I STILL
HAVEN'T
MASTERED
MY
"STEALING"
ABILITIES
YET...

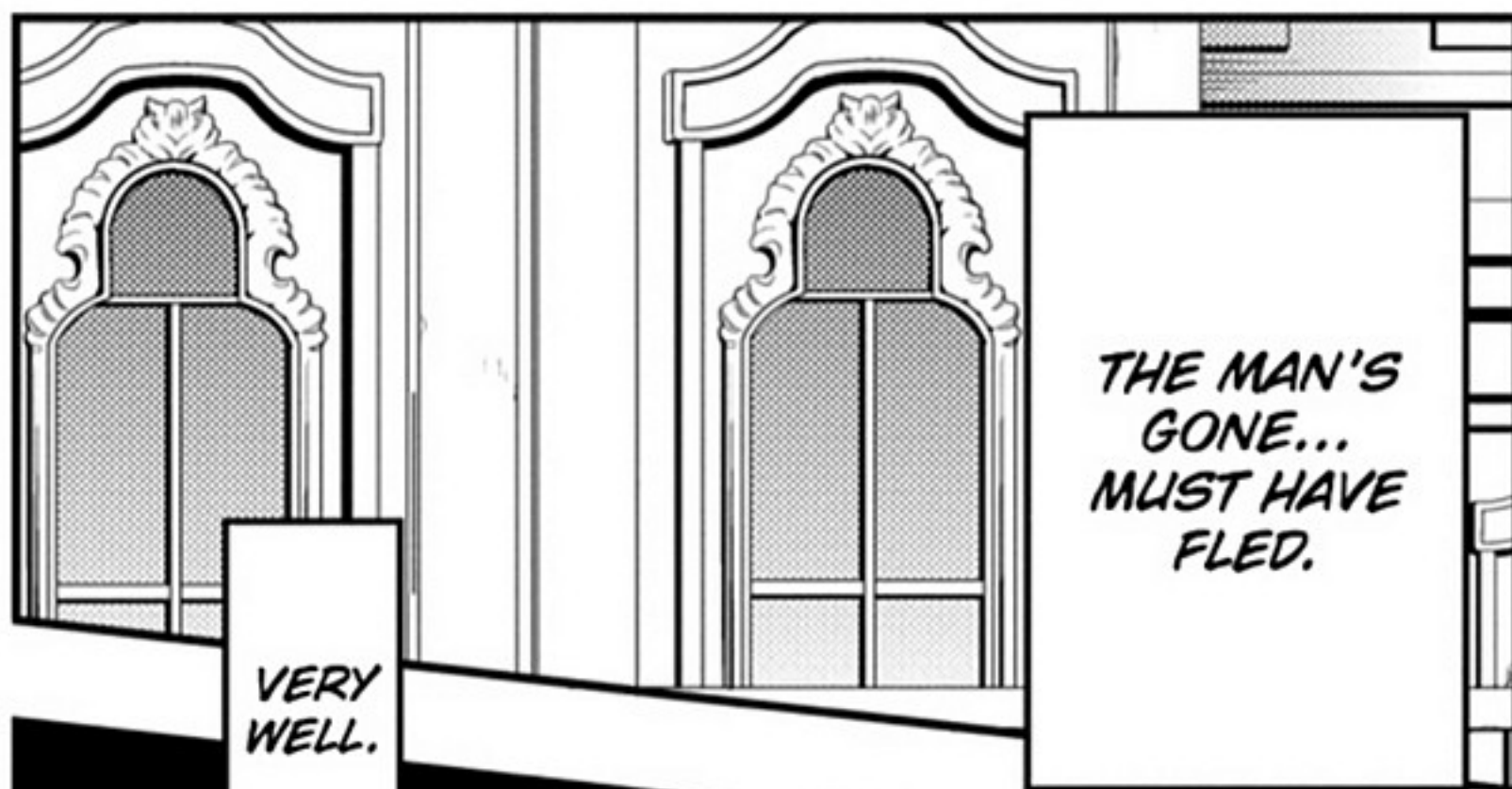


"WHO,"
YOU ASK?



I SUP-
POSE...

...YOU'D
CALL ME A
"MONSTER,"
WOULDN'T
YOU?



THE MAN'S
GONE...
MUST HAVE
FLED.

VERY
WELL.

I KNOW
WHAT THE
SCORE IS.



CHIRA
(GLANCED)



THERE
ISN'T
ANYONE
IN THIS
WORLD
WHO
KNOWS
A THING
ABOUT
WHO OR
WHAT
I AM.

NOT A
SINGLE
ONE...

PORO
7/6/9
D

PORO
7/6/9
D

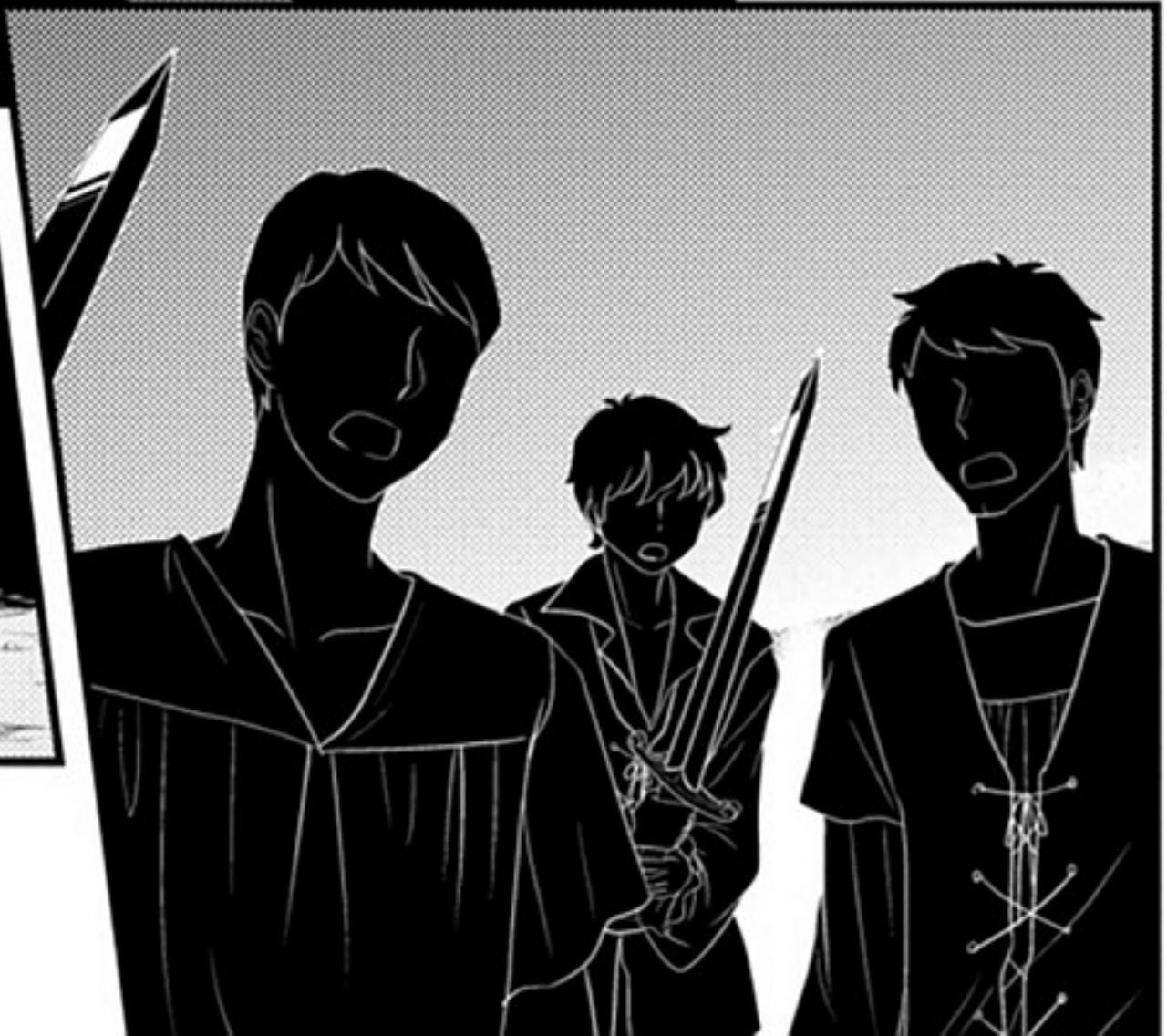
PORO
(DRIP)

7/6/9
D
17

I
JUST...

...CAN'T
STAND
IT...

ZA
(ZSH)



...AND
PUT AN
END TO
THIS.

REVEAL
ITSELF...

...I WISH IT
WOULD JUST
SHOW ITSELF
ALREADY.

IF SOME-
THING OUT
THERE
CREATED
ME...







I'M
STILL NOT
THERE
YET...?

NGH...



...I
DECIDED TO
LIVE ALONE,
IN SOLITUDE,
WHERE NO
ONE WOULD
NOTICE ME.

THUS...

...ON THE
FINAL DAY
I LET THE
HUMANS
BETRAY
ME...



...BUT
COULD THIS
REALLY BE IT?
THIS BRIGHT,
SUNLIT
FOREST...?

I USED MY
"FOCUSING
EYES" TO
FIND THIS
PLACE...

THE
LEAST-
NOTICED
PLACE
IN THE
WORLD...



WHEW...

